

## Seattle Organics Processing RFP – Proposer Question & Answer Set #3

1. ***Why is the 50 mile limitation measured from the South Transfer Station and not the North, or some point equidistant?***

The City will revise the RFP so that the 50 mile limitation for City hauling is measured from either the North or South Transfer Station. RFP Addendum 2 has been posted with this modification.

2. ***If the City elects to award contracts to more than one processor, how does the city plan to divide the materials throughout the year?***

The City's expectation is that the split in materials will be maintained throughout the year. For example, a facility contracted for half the annual tonnage would expect to receive approximately half each month. Final allocation commitments would be discussed during contract negotiations.

3. ***For distant processing sites, beyond 50 miles, will the processing contractor be responsible for all hauling trailers from the City transfer stations?***

Under the base specifications for distant facilities, the City will haul organics trailers from the City stations to an intermediate destination within 50 miles. **Proposals with distant processing facilities must identify an intermediate receiving facility within 50 miles**, such as a rail yard, trailer swap yard, or re-load facility. Proposers are also encouraged to provide alternative proposals and prices for either City hauling beyond 50 miles or processor hauling directly from City transfer stations to the distant processing facility. The City cost review for all hauling scenarios will incorporate marginal changes to City internal hauling costs.

4. ***If the processor is hauling trailers or containers for some or all of the distance, will City still own the trailers?***

The base specifications assume the City would continue to own all walking floor trailers used at the City stations, regardless of if the hauling is by City or a processing contractor. Alternative proposals could incorporate processor ownership of trailers. The base specifications also assume that any rail containers would be owned by the processing contractor, while the road chassis for rail containers would be owned by the City.

5. ***Can you provide more details on the trailer yard at new city transfer station? Can we visit the new station?***

Schematics for the new South Station have been posted on the RFP web page. Empty and full trailers would be swapped in the trailer area on the south side of the site. The station has not yet opened for visitors but the trailer yard is easily viewable from Kenyon Street.

6. ***How many walking floor trailers do the City and/or its contractor maintain at each transfer station to meet daily organics transfer needs? What are the makes/models of walking floor trailers?***

In 2014, the City expects to be using approximately 10 40-foot trailers and 20 newer 48-foot trailers. These trailers will be staged at each station based on expected incoming tonnage to that station. The 40-foot trailers are custom walking floor trailers made by Star Manufacturing. The 48-foot

trailers are custom walking floor trailers made by Star Manufacturing and Steco Manufacturing. Waste Management sub-contracts the organics hauling with Cedar Grove to haul material from Eastmont transfer station to the processing sites. They use mostly 45-foot trailers for this hauling.

**7. *How is the 15 minute turn-around measured? (Scale in/Scale out? Actual unload time? Another method?)***

The turn time is based on inbound and outbound scale time.

**8. *Within the contract processing tonnage percentage, will proposed pricing at varying increments be accepted within a single proposal or be considered alternative proposals?***

Proposers should provide one price for each term and tonnage range, such as one price for 40% - 60%. Proposers may provide alternative proposals for more discrete pricing, such as a price for 40%-50% and a different price for 50 – 60%.

**9. *What are the average transfer truck weights?***

As described in the Final RFP, the City's 40-foot trailers carried average load net weights of 17 tons in 2011. As described in Q&A Set #2, City expects load weights will increase by 30% (to approximately 22 tons) by 2014 as operations transition to longer trailers and denser loading protocol.

**10. *Has the City considered grinding organic material prior to loading to increase net weights?***

The City has no immediate plans for grinding at City stations. The base specifications for the RFP do not include any pre-grinding of loads. Alternative proposals could incorporate partnerships to pre-grind targeted loads.

**11. *The RFP suggests that food waste is approximately one-third of curb organics in Seattle while the recent composition data suggests over half the material is food waste. Please clarify the difference.***

As previously stated, the February composition sample overstates the relative volumes of food, compostable products and contamination due to the low seasonal volumes of yard debris in winter. Seattle's winter organics tons collected at the curb are approximately 40% below the average monthly tons collected at the curb for the year. Adjusting the February sample for seasonal yard debris volumes produces an annual food component close to the RFP estimate of one-third of total tons. Furthermore, historical comparison of curb organics, before and after Seattle's food collection program began, supports this range.

**12. *Would the City require the processor to accept loads that would put them out of regulatory compliance with current or future permit conditions?***

The City expects the contractor to identify and return contaminants delivered by the City. The City will retrieve and dispose of all contaminants identified from City loads. No disposal fee will be charged for rejected contaminants up to threshold established in City waste sorts.

**13. Who is on the evaluation committee for reviewing the RFP?**

The evaluation committee consists of the following members:

Jenny Bagby, SPU Asset Management and Economic Services Division

Tom Gannon, SPU Customer Programs Division

Paul Hanna, SPU Finance Division

Ken Snipes, SPU Solid Waste Field Operations Division

Gabriella Uhlar-Heffner, SPU Solid Waste Division

Hans VanDusen, SPU Solid Waste Division

**14. If WDOE rules change resulting in the proposed finished compost requirement to meet the less than 1% foreign matter, less than 0.1% plastics allowed, will the City reimburse the contractor with any costs associated with processing finished compost to this level?**

No. As previously stated, proposed operations should be compliant with current relevant regulations and contractors should be prepared to meet future regulations. The base specifications do not incorporate payment adjustment for changes in regulations. However, the City expects to continue partnering with customers, collectors, transfer operations, and processors to control and limit contaminants in the organic waste stream.

**15. What year emission standard are the tractors that currently haul yard/foodwaste?**

The table below list the purchase years for the current 15 City tractors that hauls both yard waste and garbage trailers from the City stations:

Year	2003	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Trucks	2	2	2	2	3	2	2

The City trucks are generally on a 10 year replacement cycle, so the 2 oldest trucks in the table above will likely be replaced prior to implementation of the new processing contract.

**16. Would it be possible to get the forms for the organics RFP in Word/Excel?**

Yes, Appendix A, including all proposal forms, has been posted as a word doc to the RFP webpage.

**17. What is the preferred method for digital media submission for the RFP response (flash drive, CD-ROM)?**

Proposers can provide digital submission via email, CD, DVD, or flash drive.

**18. Please confirm whether there is a page limit on the response.**

There is no page limit. As noted in the Final RFP "proposals should be concise and printed on recycled double-sided paper."

**19. Will the City allow for another round of questions on the RFP?**

Yes the City will allow for additional round of proposer questions. Proposer questions submitted by May 7<sup>th</sup> will be answered by May 14<sup>th</sup>.